

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 19 with the following amended paragraph:

Referring particularly to Figs. 1C, 1E and 1F, the sheath 107 includes a proximal connector 121 having protrusions 134 that enable the user to grip and rotate the connector 121 when joining the outer member 125 to the inner member 140. The proximal connector 121 includes L-shaped channels ~~176~~~~175~~ bored out of an inside surface of the connector 121. Two of the L-shaped channels ~~176~~~~175~~ (shown in Fig. 1F) are spaced apart from each other by 180° and one of the L-shaped channels ~~176~~~~175~~ is spaced from each of the other two by 90°. Each of the L-shaped channels ~~176~~~~175~~ has a proximal side that extends along the longitudinal axis 115 and a distal side extending perpendicularly from the proximal side and the longitudinal axis 115.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 8 with the following amended paragraph:

To assemble the inner member 140 and the outer member 125, the distal portion 300 of the inner member 140 is inserted into the connector 121 of the outer member 125. The operator uses the protrusions 134 to grip and rotate the connector 121 during assembly. As the distal portion 300 is inserted into the connector 121, the inner cylindrical portion 109 slides through the hub 120 and through the sheath 107. Guide pins 180 slide through the proximal side of the L-shaped channels ~~176~~~~175~~ that are spaced apart by 180°. Additionally, the guide pin 185 slides through the proximal side of the L-shaped channel ~~176~~~~175~~ that is positioned between the other two L-shaped channels ~~176~~~~175~~. As the distal portion 300 is further inserted into the outer member 125, the guide pins 180 and 185 reach the edges of the proximal sides of the L-shaped channels ~~176~~~~175~~. At this point, the connector 121 is rotated relative to the outer member 125 and the guide pins 180 and 185 slide through the distal sides of the L-shaped channels ~~176~~~~175~~. The inner member 140 is locked in place within the outer member 125 due to the frictional engagement between the guide pins 180 and the respective L-shaped channels ~~176~~~~175~~.

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Furthermore, the outer member 125 and the inner member 140 are constrained to join in only one configuration because the guide pins 180 and 185 can move through the L-shaped channels in only one alignment.